

Biennial Report to the UGBEP Citizen Advisory Council



**UPLAND GAME BIRD
ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM**
MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

Malta, Montana
September 12, 2022

UGBEP Goal



**UPLAND GAME BIRD
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UGBEP Goal

The Goal of the Upland Game Bird Enhancement Program is to efficiently and responsibly conserve and enhance upland game bird habitats and populations—providing quality public hunting opportunities for upland game birds for present and future generations.



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UGBEP: Funding (87-1-246, MCA)



The amount of money specified in this section from the sale of each hunting license listed must be used exclusively by the department **to preserve and enhance upland game bird populations in Montana.**

\$2 resident upland game bird, combination sports

\$23 nonresident upland game bird, nonresident big game combination

\$10 3-day nonresident upland game bird

UGBEP Fiscal Reporting



**UPLAND GAME BIRD
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Biennial Revenue & Expenditures (License)

FY21 INCOME _____ | FY21 EXPENDITURES _____

License Revenue	Interest Revenue	Total Income	Bird Planting	Habitat	Admin	Overhead	Total Expenditures
776,317	5,173	781,490	2,526	467,531	163,740	60,766	694,563

FY22 INCOME _____ | FY22 EXPENDITURES _____

License Revenue	Interest Revenue	Total Income	*Bird Planting	Habitat	Admin	Overhead	Total Expenditures
784,763	7,389	792,152	48,0511	385,918	195,370	82,398	711,737

*Bird planting expenditures funded UGBEP releases and Youth Pheasant opener.

FY21 = July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021

FY22 = July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022

Biennial Revenue & Expenditures (Non-License)

Program/Grant (FY21)	Habitat	Admin	Total Expenditures
Pittman-Robertson	NA	\$179,404	\$179,404
VPA-HIP	\$86,847	NA	\$86,847

Program/Grant (FY22)	Habitat	Admin	Total Expenditures
Pittman-Robertson	NA	\$162,884	\$162,884
VPA-HIP	\$530,951	NA	\$530,951
Nongame	\$105,825	NA	\$105,825

FY21 = July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021

FY22 = July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022

Cash Balances (FY23)

Bird Planting Fund

Reported: \$464,865

Habitat Enhancement Fund

Reported: \$2,242,769

Obligated: \$1,779,344

Unobligated: \$463,425

VPA-HIP Grant Award

- Received 1,894,060 in 2020
 - \$298,256 (indirect costs)
 - \$1,595,804 (enrollments)
 - \$1,280,804 UGBEP
 - \$315,000 term access easement



OPEN FIELDS
FOR
GAME BIRD HUNTERS

Walk-In Hunting Area

- No further permission required to hunt game birds
- No motorized vehicles beyond this point
- No big game hunting without owner permission

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MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

Please Act Responsibly:

- Don't Litter
- Pick Up Spent Shells
- No Fire/Smoking

Open Fields is made possible through work supported by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Status of VPA-HIP Grant Award

Since FY20, UGBEP expended
\$1,088,069

Available Balance: \$507,736

No-cost extension requested



Cooperative Partner Positions

Position	Contract Effective	Contract Expiration	Obligations (\$)	Balance (\$)	Note
PF Lake County	6/1/2021	6/30/2023	26,000	13,000	FY22: \$2,000 NG
PF Denton	7/1/2022	6/30/2027	200,000	Qtly invoices	FY23: PR, UGBEP Ops match
PF Billings	9/17/2020	6/30/2023	180,000	60,000	
NWTF	7/1/2022	6/30/2026	160,000	Qtly invoices	FY22: \$28,958.30 NG FY23-FY26: PR, UGBEP Ops match
PF Farm Bill Bios	9/1/2021	9/30/2024	58,500	44,875	

UGBEP Enrollment Summaries



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Habitat Enrollment Accomplishments

During the biennium, UGBEP enrolled 173 new habitat projects, enhancing and conserving approximately 46,519 acres of upland game bird habitats and providing 257,450 acres of free public upland game bird hunting opportunity.

Summary of Biennial Habitat Accomplishments

Project Type(s)	# Projects
Aspen Regen	3
Biennial Food Plot	1
Cons. Lease	1
Cover Crop Mgt	2
CRP Seed Cost-Share	6
Disking/ Interseeding	9
Fence	3
Grain Food Plots	13
Grazing Mgt	1

Project Type(s)	# Projects
HML	32
Herbicide payments	6
Managed Hay Lease	3
Nesting Cover	4
Open Fields	59
Shelterbelts	2
Weed Payment	14
Winter Food/Cover Plots	14

VPA-HIP Enrollment Summary

Year	Habitat Acres	Access Acres	Contracts
2020	3,311	5,262	13
2021	10,004	24,472	47
2022	9,548	16,026	48
Total	22,863	45,760	108



UGBEP: Pheasant Release Summary

	FY21			FY22		
Region	# Contracts	# Pheasants	Expenditures	# Contracts	# Pheasants	Expenditures
4	0	0	\$0	1	100	\$1,176
6	3	250	\$2,526	1	100	\$1,175
Total	3	250	\$2,526	2	200	\$2,351

Program Notes:

- Unique to FY 22, the program also paid for 2,626 pheasants released for the Youth Pheasant Opener, expending \$45,700. Total FY22 expenditures were \$48,051 for 2,826 pheasants.
- Pheasant raiser retirement.

UGBEP Access Summaries



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UGBEP Active Projects Summary



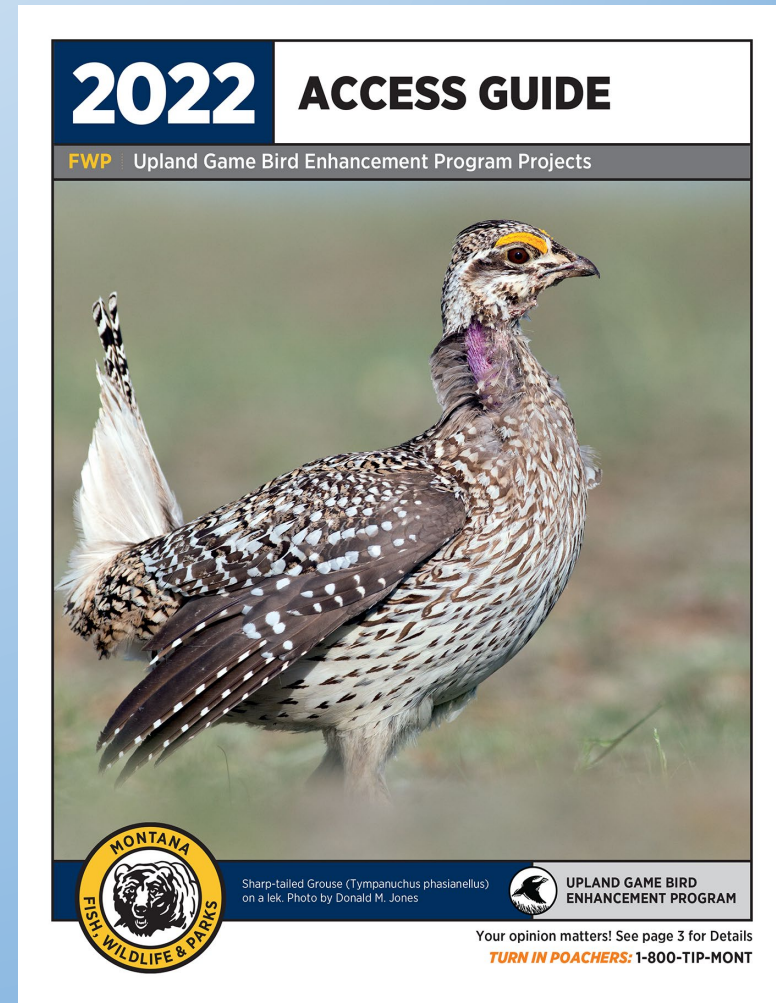
As of August 2022, the program manages a total of **473** active contracts that enhance over **333,000** acres of upland game bird habitat, providing approximately **800,000** acres of game bird hunting access.

UGBEP Access Guide

Access Guides ordered online 2018 to present.

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
1,359	3,097	2,992	1,527	1,200+

As of August 2022, the program manages a total of **473** active contracts that enhance over **333,000** acres of upland game bird habitat, providing approximately **800,000** acres of game bird hunting access.



UGBEP Permission Methods - See 2022 Projects Access Guide

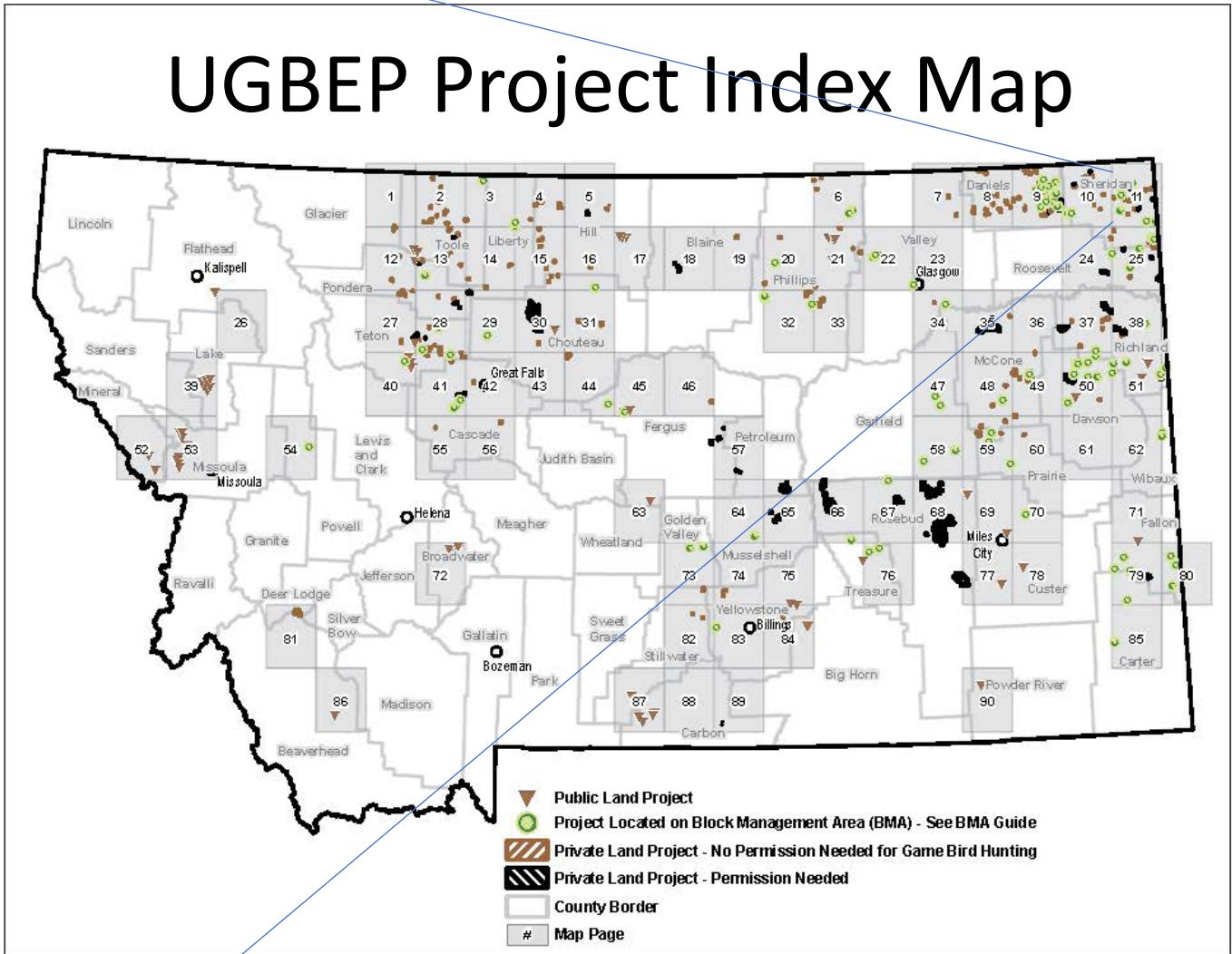


Project Located on Block Management Area
 US Bureau of Land Management
 Private Land Project - No Permission Needed for Game Bird Hunting
 Other Federal Land
 Private Land Project - Permission Needed
 Montana State Trust Land
 Indian Reservation

FWP Region 6
Date: 7/28/2022

Valid for the 2022 Hunting Season. Possession of this map does not constitute legal access to private land enrolled in the UGBEP. This map is not intended to depict current property ownership outside the enrolled Program Area. It is every hunter's responsibility to know the land ownership of the area he or she intends to hunt, the hunting regulations, and any land use restrictions that may apply. Check the FWP Hunt Planner for updates: <http://bit.ly/2zqa9IM>

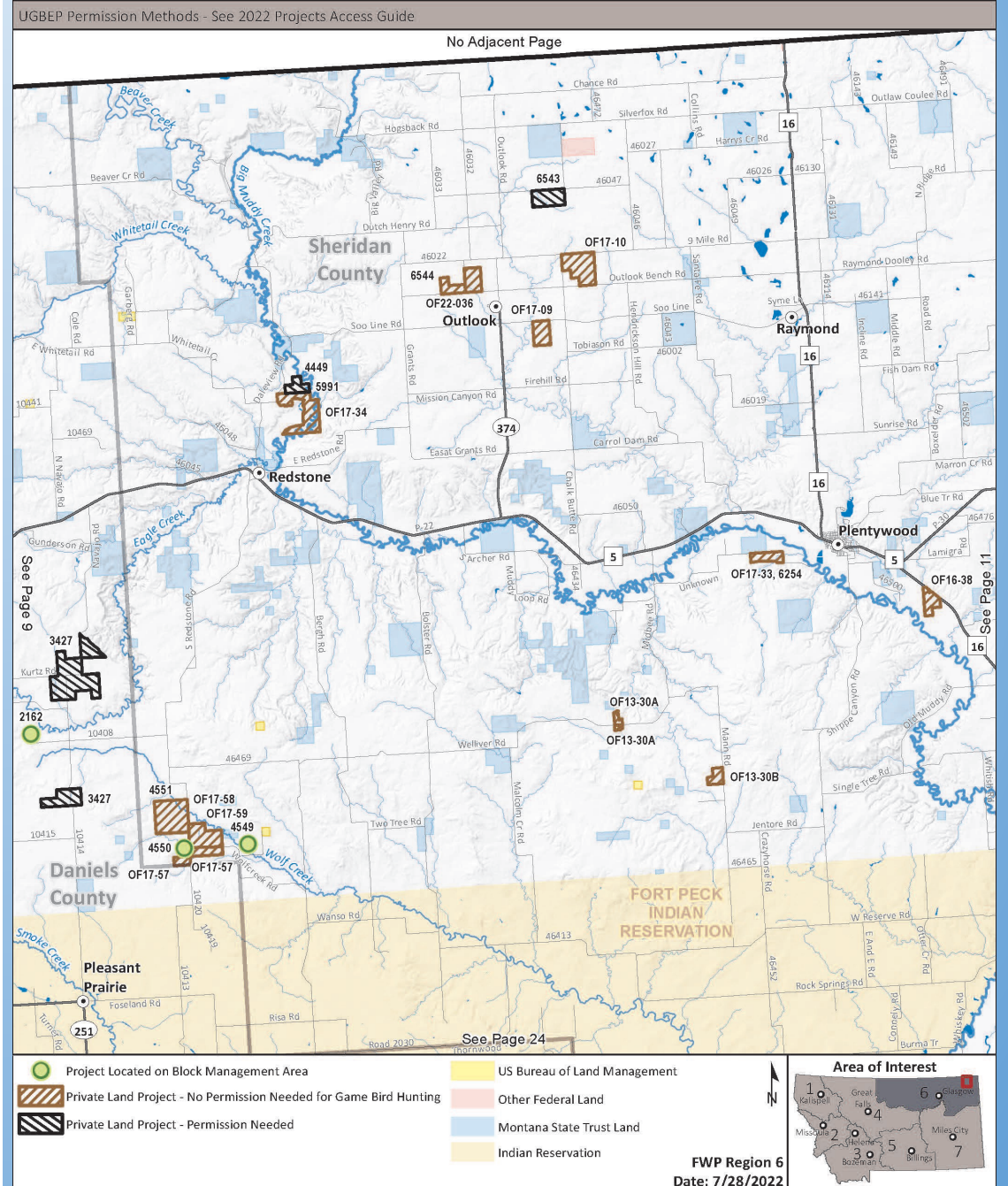
UGBEP Project Index Map



Project #	County(s)	Cooperator	Method for Obtaining Permission	Access Acres	Project Type(s) (Proj. Acres)
6254 Sheridan	10	Laurel Clawson 04/01/35	Walk-in game bird hunting allowed with no further permission required. Areas signed.	182	Shelterbelt(s) 1
6277 Roosevelt	24	David Christoffersen 04/01/26	Permission is handled through the Block Management Program. Refer to the Block Management Hunting Access Guide: BMA #89; Roosevelt County. Type 1.	705	Habitat Management Lease 82
6294 Valley	34	Ronald Garwood 04/01/23	Permission is handled through the Block Management Program. Refer to the Block Management Hunting Access Guide: BMA #117; Valley County. Type 1.	629	Biennial Food Plot 17
6295 Hill	17	FWP - Rookery WMA 04/01/31	WMA is open for public hunting; boundaries are signed. Refer to current hunting regulations for hunting and weapons restriction.	2,284	Nesting Cover 20
6296 Daniels	9	Raynell Heaton 04/01/31	Walk-in game bird hunting allowed with no further permission required. Areas signed.	320	Habitat Management Lease 53
6346 Daniels	9	B&S Hagan, Inc 05/01/31	Walk-in game bird hunting allowed with no further permission required. Areas signed.	759	Habitat Management Lease 85
6539 Richland	38	Sunny Slope Ranch, Inc 04/01/32	By phone; during the hours of 8:00 am to 8:00 pm; any day of the week; at phone number(s) 406-774-3344; 406-480-4586.	960	Nesting Cover 177
6540 Phillips	6	Hartman Land and Livestock Company 04/01/32	Permission is handled through the Block Management Program. Refer to the Block Management Hunting Access Guide: BMA #100; Phillips County. Type 1.	803	Habitat Management Lease 73
6541 Phillips	6	Hartman Land and Livestock Company 04/01/25	Permission is handled through the Block Management Program. Refer to the Block Management Hunting Access Guide: BMA #100; Phillips County. Type 1.	803	Winter Food/Cover Plots 10
6542 Daniels	9	Gordon Nielsen 04/01/32	Permission is handled through the Block Management Program. Refer to the Block Management Hunting Access Guide: BMA #78; Daniels County. Type 1.	921	CRP Seed Cost-Share 640
6543 Sheridan	10	Brelje Farms 04/01/25	Hunters must sign in at roster box on-site daily. Boxes are located on the property at main access roads. Areas signed.	320	Grain Food Plots, Winter Food/Cover Plots 12
6544 Sheridan	10	Emery Brelje 04/01/25	Walk-in game bird hunting allowed with no further permission required. Areas signed.	240	Winter Food/Cover Plots 10
6559 Daniels	9	Gordon Nielsen 05/01/32	Permission is handled through the Block Management Program. Refer to the Block Management Hunting Access Guide: BMA #78; Daniels County. Type 1.	921	CRP Seed Cost-Share 640



No shooting/trespassing into safety areas around houses or buildings. No hunting in unharvested crops/fields or near livestock.



The End

